

In the Drawings:

Please approve the drawing changes as shown in red on the attached marked-up copies of Figures 1-6. A set of replacement sheets for Figures 1-6 incorporating the same proposed drawing changes is also enclosed.

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants have added the phrase “Prior Art” to Figures 1-6 as requested by the Examiner, as indicated on the attached marked-up annotated sheets. Approval of the proposed drawing changes is respectfully requested. Also enclosed are replacement sheets for Figures 1-6.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Applicants’ Prior Art Figures 1-6 in view of United States Patent No. 5,910,829 to Shimada et al. Claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. However, with respect to Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 13 and 14, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Prior Art Figures 1-6 alone, or in combination with the Shimada et al. reference, do not disclose or suggest the liquid crystal display panel of amended independent Claim 1 that includes, *inter alia*, a liquid crystal panel that is a “normally-black liquid crystal panel.” This feature was originally found in dependent Claim 3, and as correctly acknowledged by the Examiner on page 5 (lines 15-16) of the November 1, 2005 Office Action, Prior Art Figures 1-6 fail to disclose this feature. The Examiner inherently acknowledged that the Shimada et al. reference also failed to disclose this feature because he did not rely upon the Shimada et al. reference for this feature, but instead added a third reference to the rejection, United States Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0083471 to Ono et al., a response to which rejection will be provided

below. Thus since neither Prior Art Figures 1-6 nor the Shimada et al reference disclose or suggest all of the features of amended independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 13 and 14.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Applicants' Prior Art Figures 1-6 in view of Shimada et al. and further in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0083471 to Ono et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it applies to amended independent Claim 1, to which the subject matter of now-cancelled dependent Claim 3 has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a normally-black liquid crystal display in which the first electrode (that counters the color filters) and the second electrode (that counters the first electrode) are connected to a common voltage, as defined in amended independent Claim 1.

In the Office action, the Examiner remarked that "it was inherently to have the first electrode and the second electrode are connected to a common voltage in liquid crystal display device to control the direction of the liquid crystal molecules." *See* November 1, 2005 Office Action, page 3, lines 8-10. Applicants respectfully disagree with this statement.

When the first and second electrodes are connected to a common voltage in a liquid crystal display panel of normally-black mode, the light through the liquid crystal panel is shut off permanently, and the liquid crystal display device can only show uniform black representation. Thereby, display of images becomes impossible. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention of amended Claim 1 cannot be derived from the Prior Art Figures 1-6, even when combined with Shimada et al. and Ono et al. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 13 and 14.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Applicants' Prior Art Figures 1-6 in view of Shimada et al. and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,348,958 to Matsuoka et al.

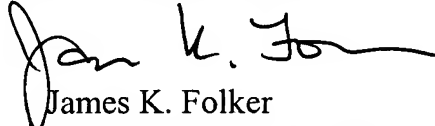
Claim 8 depends from independent Claim 1, and therefore includes all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 103 rejection of dependent Claim 8 under Shimada et al. in view of Matsouka et al. be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1, and also because the Matsouka et al. reference does not remedy the deficiencies noted above.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference

would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG.1
(PRIOR ART)

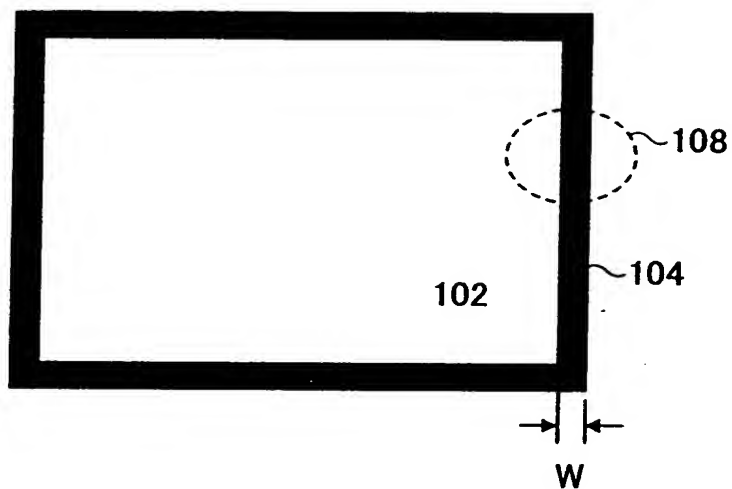


FIG.2
 (PRIOR ART)

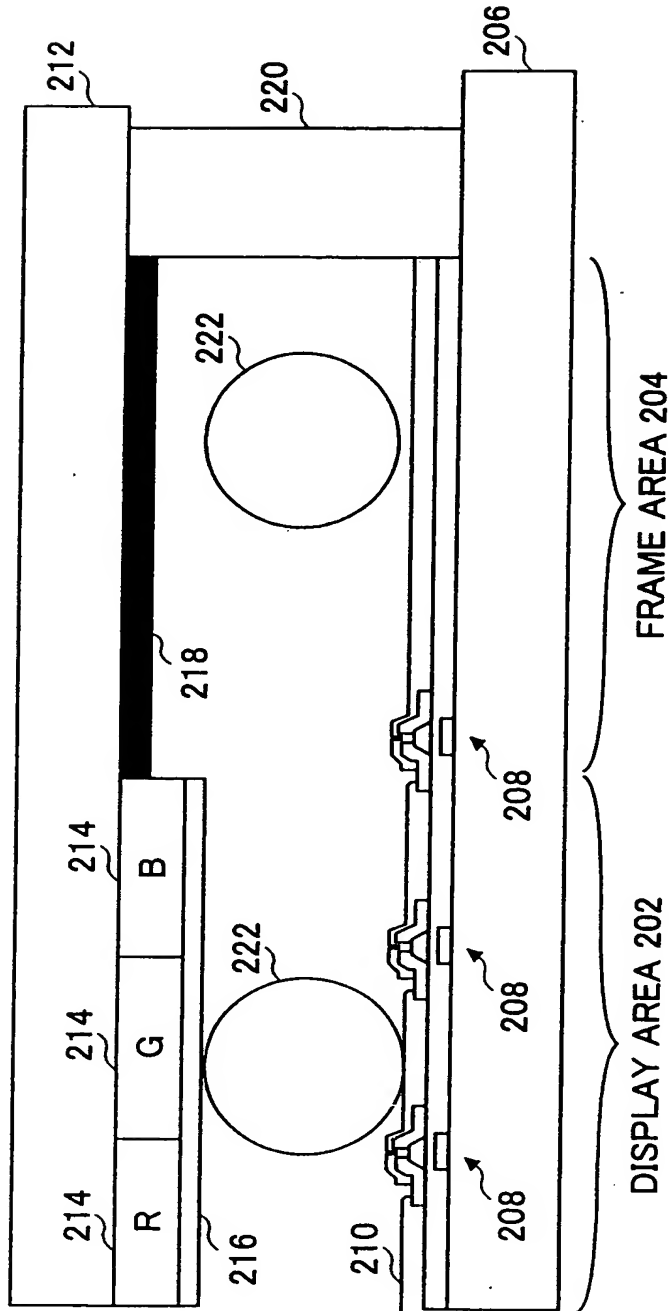


FIG.3
(PRIOR ART)

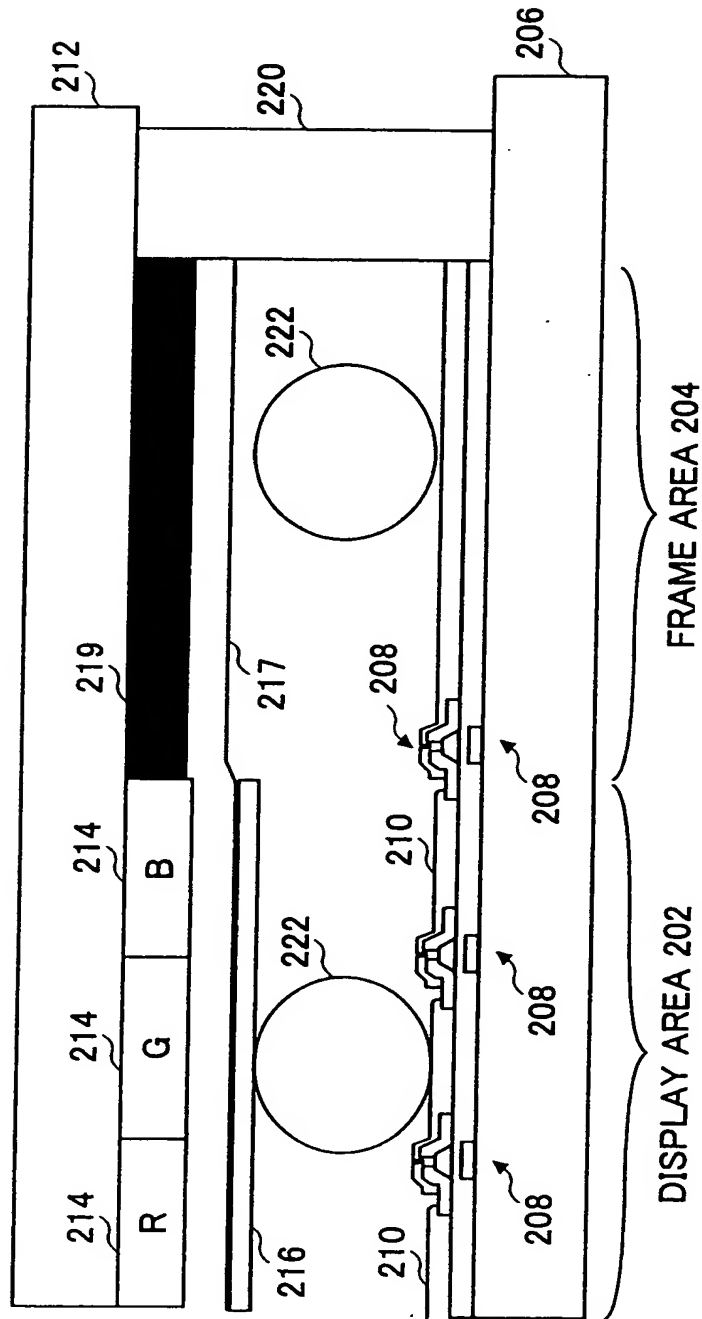


FIG.4
(PRIOR ART)

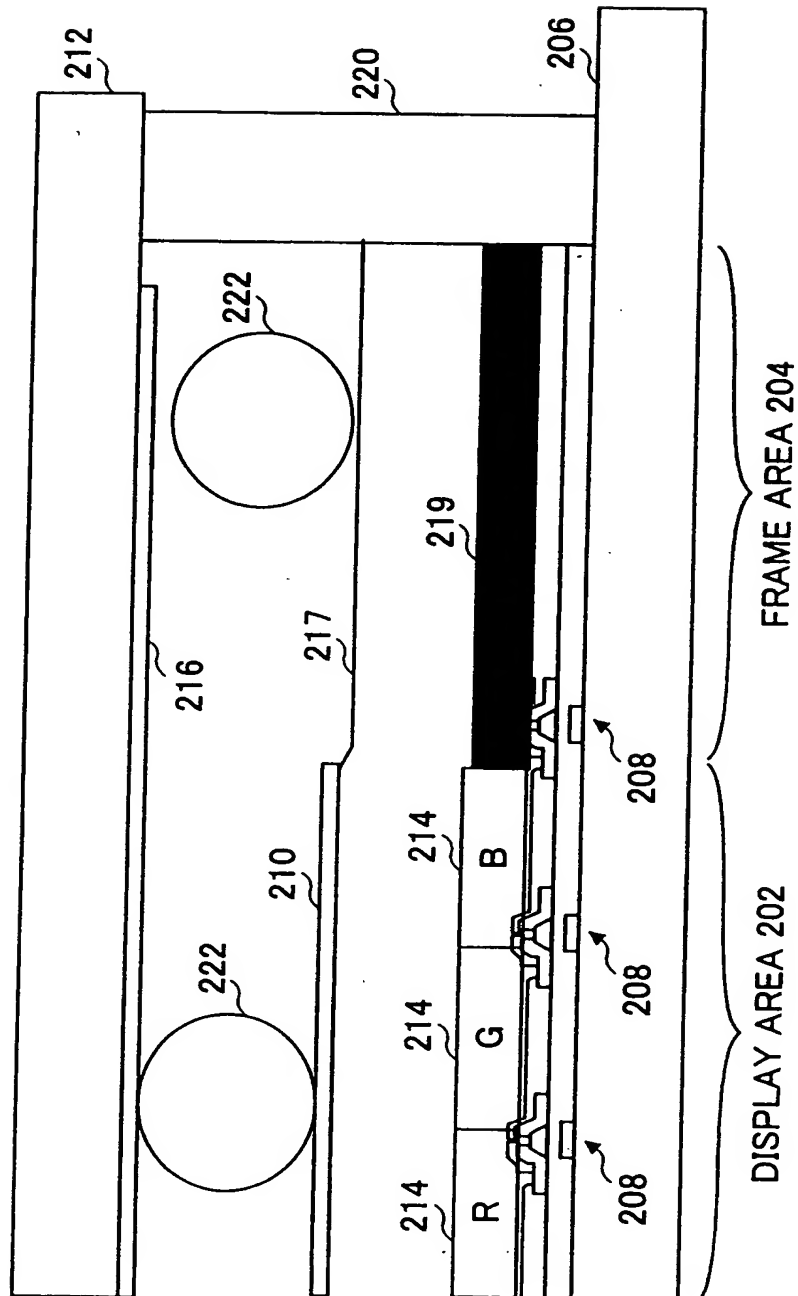


FIG.5
(PRIOR ART)

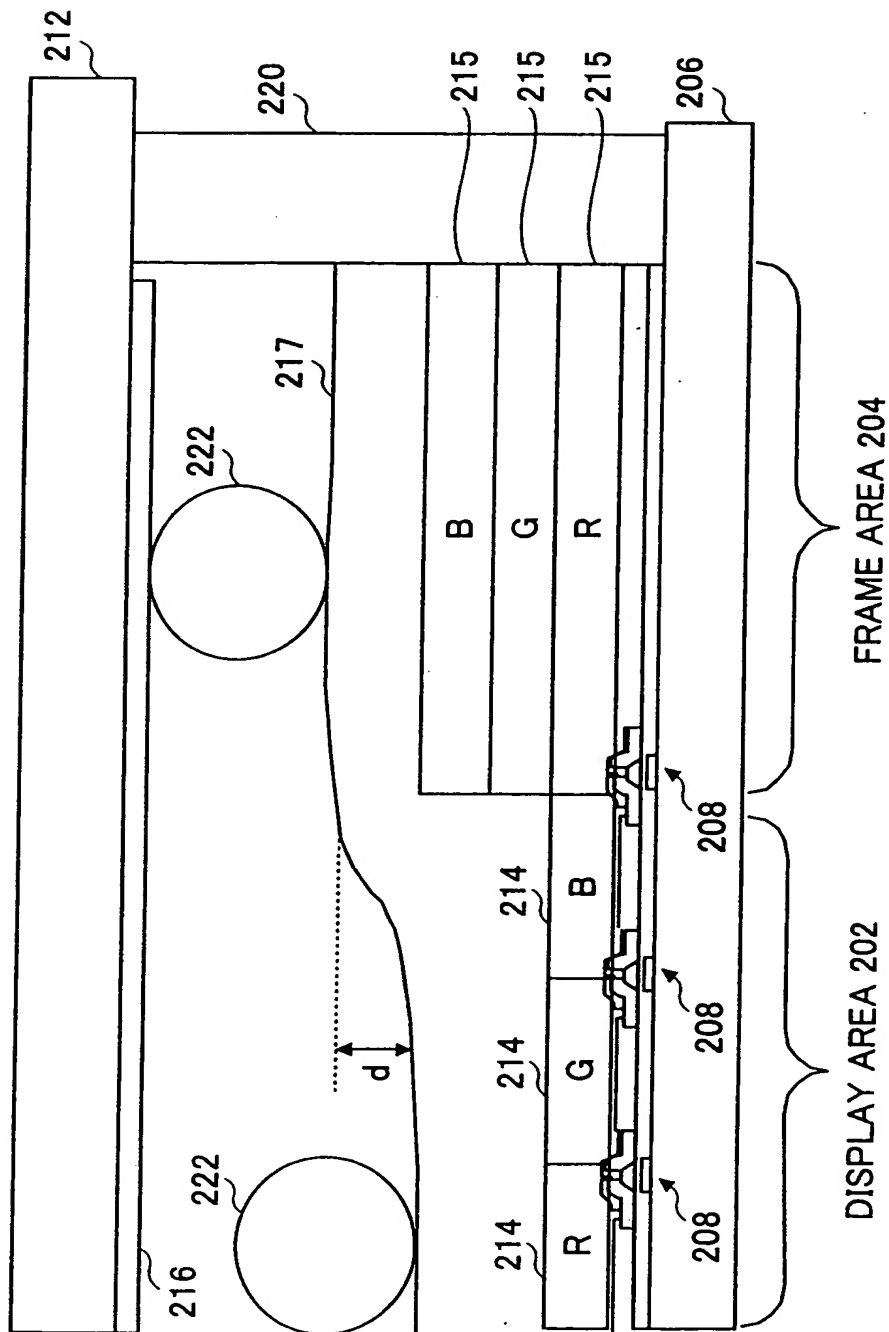


FIG.6
(PRIOR ART)

